
OLR Bill Analysis

HB 6477

AN ACT REQUIRING A PLAN FOR THE TRANSLATION AND REVIEW OF ALL FORMS AND APPLICATIONS REQUIRED TO ACCESS STATE AGENCY SERVICES OR BENEFITS BY LIMITED-ENGLISH PROFICIENT INDIVIDUALS.

SUMMARY

This bill requires the Department of Administrative Service (DAS) to (1) develop a plan by January 1, 2026, for reviewing and translating all printed or electronic forms or applications required to access executive branch state agency services or benefits and (2) update this plan every two years. Federal law generally requires states to provide “meaningful access” to its benefits and services for people with limited English proficiency (see BACKGROUND).

The bill requires this plan to include translating forms and applications (1) necessary to access vital records (i.e. birth, death, fetal death, or marriage certificates) or to get identification documents and (2) into the 12 most common non-English languages spoken by people with limited English proficiency in the state, as determined based on the U.S. Census Bureau’s most recent American Community Survey. Under the bill, people with limited English proficiency are those whose primary and preferred language is not English and who have a limited ability to read, speak, write, or understand English.

By February 1, 2026, the bill requires each executive branch state agency to (1) adopt and implement this plan and update it every two years and (2) designate a language access coordinator to work with DAS to ensure compliance with the plan.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

BACKGROUND

Federal Law

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 generally prohibits discrimination based on race, color, or national origin in any program or activity that receives federal funds or other federal financial assistance, which has been interpreted to include the requirement to provide “meaningful access” to individuals with limited English proficiency. Other federal laws, such as the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 1557 of the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, place additional requirements on state and local governments to ensure individuals with limited English proficiency can access governmental benefits and services.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 13 Nay 6 (03/26/2025)